

DAVID Kemp intensified his Conference war effort when he brought a second key player to Wexham Park in four days yesterday. The Slough boss signed goalkeeper Carl Emberson from Millwall to join Crystal Palace central defender Russell Edwards who was signed on a month's loan on Monday.

Emberson, a 21-year-old who has just completed a three-month loan period at Colchester United, has been signed up for the rest of the season's promotion battles.

Kemp's moved urgently for a keeper this week to beat the March 25 deadline for signings. He said: "I could not go into the final 10 games with only one keeper. "I have not signed Emberson to replace Trevor Bunting, but if I am going to sign a keeper, I might as well sign a good one. Carl is 6 ft 2 ins tall, is a good shot-stopper, good on crosses and has a good kick."

Emberson will make his debut for second-placed Slough at tomorrow's home game against Gateshead.

Edwards will also start, replacing the suspended Brian Lee.

Kemp was left with the delicate task of omitting Bunting on the eve of his 300th performance.

But he was otherwise in the mood for war.

He said: "We are well-placed coming into the last block of fixtures. "It is important that we finish off the season in style.

"I have signed two players because, firstly there was a specific need and, secondly to ensure that there is no shortfall."

Kemp gave Steve Scott, George Friel and David Greene a run out in the Reserves on Tuesday and competition remains razor-sharp to fill the midfield positions.

The Rebels will be all fired up to take revenge on the Tynesiders following the 1-0 defeat at the International Stadium on Feb 27.

But all eyes in the Conference will be focussed on on Tuesday's clash with leaders Wycombe at Adams Park.

The Blues have lost their unbeaten home record (Kettering, March 6) and suffered their heaviest league defeat of the season (Yeovil, March 16) in the past two weeks.

Like the Rebels, they have had their problems since an injury ruled out central defender and captain Glyn Creaser in January.

The Blues have since lacked the authority which made them odds-on favourites for promotion and, to boot, they have lost their goalscoring touch.

There are fierce rumours that they are on the verge of signing a centre forward — and leading Conference marksman David Leworthy is whispered to be top of the list.

Kemp watched both Gateshead and Wycombe at Adams Park last weekend.

"I am looking forward to beating them both," he said.

● See our special profile on David Kemp on Page 43.

WYCOMBE Wanderers 3-0 defeat at Yeovil on Tuesday night gave Slough another reason to smile at the end of a highly satisfying week, writes Robert Sloman.

Though they haven't been involved on the pitch since beating Woking last

Reasons to smile

week, Slough have been heavily involved off it.

At the weekend gifted winger Mark Fiore signed a two-year contract, thus ending speculation of a move to Surrey — and leaving Woking boss Geoff

Chapple a little red-faced. Unaware of Fiore's decision Chapple made his way to FA headquarters on Monday night to hear his club's appeal against the £15,000 compensation fee set by the Conference, only to learn there that his journey had been wasted.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Slough boss David Kemp then secured the services on a months loan of 19 year-old Crystal Palace central defender Russell Edwards. He goes straight into the team

Then came the news that

Darren Anderson's booking against Woking last week won't be counted on his record and he is now available for Gateshead and crucially Wycombe Wanderers on Tuesday.

The referee at Woking admitted he made a mistake and on advice from his linesman and other officials the booking has been removed, so Anderson stays on 19

Kemp is loathed to look beyond the Gateshead game but he's well aware of how crucial Anderson could be at Wycombe.

"I'm afraid it's still the 'one game at a time' line, but obviously having Darren's experience is important.

"Wycombe put the game back from Christmas, but it's mid March now and we are still snapping at their heels and I think people are gradually realising we are not going to fall away."

● The home game at Wycombe on April 13 will be ALL TICKET on Police advice.

A limit of 4,500 (ground) and 250 (stand) has been set.

Ticket prices range from £3.50 to £5.50 and they go on sale on Saturday before the Gateshead game.

Tickets on sale

TICKETS for the Slough-Wycombe Conference clash on April 13 go on sale at tomorrow's home game against Gateshead.

Slough have been advised by the police to make the local derby an all-ticket game with a crowd limit of 4,750.

The tickets, priced £5.50 (£3.50) for stand and £4.50 (£2.50) for ground, go on sale at 2pm tomorrow inside Wexham Park Stadium.

Sales, on a first come, first served basis, will continue after the game at the club shop under the stand.

Season ticket holders can claim their tickets on presentation of their pass.

Segregation at the Slough-Wycombe game will be in operation.

The club apologised for the increase in admission prices. Secretary Ollie Hayward said: "It is regrettable, but it is due to high police, steward and administrative costs."

● Tuesday's Slough-Wycombe game at Adams Park is not all-ticket.